his concern for the welfare of his subjects and his frugality in his personal and court expenses. Although originating nothing of great importance in governmental machinery, he gave to China as vigorous an administration as the Empire had ever known, and fostered not only order and material prosperity but cultural activity.

Very early after assuming full power, when he was still in his teens, K'ang Hsi faced successfully the most serious menace that had yet threatened his line. After their conquest of China, the Manchus had placed over much of the region south of the Yangtze four of the Chinese generals who had been of most assistance to them. One of these died without leaving male issue, but his son-in-law was given a position of trust in Kwangsi. Another was in Kwangtung and a third in Fukien. The most powerful was Wu San-kuei, who had had so large a part in introducing the Ch'ing to Peking. He had conquered for his new masters Shensi, Szechwan, and Yunnan, and had hounded the last of the Ming, the luckless Kuei Wang, to his death on the Yunnan border. He had been loaded with honors, one of his sons had been given in marriage a sister of the Emperor Shun Chih, and in Yiinnanf u, his headquarters, he maintained a court which in splendor rivalled that of Peking. In the South as they were, remote from Peking, these Chinese dignitaries, with high titles and great authority, constituted a potential danger: it was the kind of division of the realm among feudatories which more than once had threatened the unity of the Empire.

There seems to be some uncertainty as to the exact steps by which the revolt came about. The occasion appears to have been the determination of the Emperor to bring to an

end the anomalous power of these satraps. K'ang Hsi ordered Wu San-kuei to report to Peking to pay homage to the throne, but that worthy, warned by his son—a hostage in Peking—of a plot against him, twice refused. When one of the dignitaries, Shang K'o-hsi, in Canton, because of age and the desire to escape from the control of a son, asked leave to retire to Manchuria, K'ang Hsi promptly granted his request. Then when two others, as a matter of policy, or following the requirements of Chinese custom, made similar offers, K[7]ang Hsi brought to a head the entire issue by taking them at their word and ordering them to disband their troops.